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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-second session
25 February-7 March 2008
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women;
      (ii) Evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peacebuilding;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women, at the first meeting of its fifty-second session on 9 March 2007, elected, by acclamation, Olivier Belle (Belgium) as Chairperson, and Ara Margarian (Armenia), Enna Park (Republic of Korea) and Julio Peralta (Paraguay) as Vice-Chairpersons of the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission.[1] The Commission will approve the nomination of one candidate to fill the pending vacancy on the Bureau.

The Commission will appoint three candidates to fill the pending vacancies on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2007/239.

Preparations for the fifty-second session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

Following practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

[1] The list of members of the Commission at its fifty-second session is contained in annex II to the present document.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables, and it authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested members of the Commission through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of such round tables.

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council further decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table, at the fifty-second session, will focus on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Documentation

Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the high-level round table on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2008/CRP.3)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-second session, the Commission will consider the theme "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women". The report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2008/2)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Following consultation, the Bureau decided that the Commission would hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue theme "Gender perspectives on climate change".

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

The Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme (Council resolution E/2006/9).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2007/7 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women and resolutions 1997/43 and 2005/42 of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it a report on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested UNIFEM to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the (former) Commission on Human Rights.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and

thirty-ninth sessions[2] and a note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the Committee's fortieth session will be before the Commission.

Ending female genital mutilation

In its resolution 51/2, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the resolution on the well-being of girls.

Forced marriage of the girl child

In its resolution 51/3, the Commission recognized that early marriage and early childbearing continued to be impediments to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world, and that early motherhood could severely curtail their educational and employment opportunities and was likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of their lives and the lives of their children. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution.

Women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

At its fiftieth session, in resolution 50/1, the Commission on the Status of Women had expressed its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict would promote the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. In addition, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the resolution, including relevant recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations.

Programme questions

The Commission on the Status of Women has before it for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, comprising Part one: plan outline and Part two: biennial programme plan. The Commission on the Status of Women is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session when it considers the Secretary-General's proposed Strategic Framework for the biennium 2010-2011.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/62/38).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2008/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on forced marriage of the girl child (E/CN.6/2008/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2008/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2008/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2008/7)

Report on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.6/2008/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.6/2008/9)

Note by the Secretary-General on the strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011: subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women (E/CN.6/2008/CRP.4)

Documents for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions[2]

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the fortieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2008/CRP.1)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

At the 14th meeting on 10 March 2006 of its fiftieth session, the Commission decided to postpone until its fifty-second session further consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2) and the different views and proposals put forward by Member States during the debate on the item at its forty-eighth session in 2004.

At its 13th meeting, on 9 March 2007, the Commission appointed Ivana Kožar (Croatia) and Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) to serve on the Working Group for the fifty-second session of the Commission. The appointment of the remaining three members of the Working Group was deferred to the fifty-second session. At the same meeting, the Commission decided that upon their nomination by their respective regional groups, candidates for membership in the Working Group would be permitted to participate fully in the work of the Working Group for the fifty-second session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2008/SW/COMM.LIST/42/R)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2008/SW/COMM.LIST/42/Add.1/R)

Report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions were invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2008 high-level segment of the Council.

Documentation

Letter dated 13 November 2007 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2008/10); letter dated 22 October 2007 from the President of Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E.CN.6/2008/10, annex II)

Note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development (E/CN.6/2008/CRP.2)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-third session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-second session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 25 February		
10 a.m.	1. Election of officers	Approval of the nominees to the Bureau and membership in the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Introduction of reports General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women	High-level round table on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme
Tuesday, 26 February		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women	Interactive expert panel on key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women
3 p.m.	3 (c). Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters	An interactive expert panel on capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 27 February		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
1 p.m.	(Panel event in the margins)[a]	Panel on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS" (2 hours)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
Thursday, 28 February		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
1 p.m.	(Panel event in the margins)[a]	Joint panel with the Statistics Commission on indicators on violence against women
3 p.m.	Item 3 (b). Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men	Interactive expert panel on the theme "Gender perspectives on climate change"
Friday, 29 February		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (ii). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peacebuilding	Interactive dialogue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "women's participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding"
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
Monday, 3 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Tuesday, 4 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
	3 (*continued*)	
Wednesday, 5 March		
10 a.m.-12 noon	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
12 noon-1 p.m.	5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	
3 p.m.	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Introduction of draft proposals
Thursday, 6 March		
10 a.m.-12 noon	(Commemorative event)[a]	Observance of International Women's Day (2 hours)
12 noon-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Friday, 7 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	6. Provisional agenda of the fifty-third session of the Commission	Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the fifty-third session of the Commission
3 p.m.	7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the session

[a] Informal events to be held on the margin of the fifty-second session of the Commission.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session (2008)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Armenia	2011
Azerbaijan	2011
Belgium	2011
Belize	2009
Brazil	2011
Cambodia	2011
Cameroon	2010
China	2008
Croatia	2009
Djibouti	2010
Dominican Republic	2008
Ecuador	2010
El Salvador	2008
Gabon	2011
Germany	2009
Ghana	2008
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
Indonesia	2010
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2010
Japan	2009
Kazakhstan	2008
Lesotho	2010
Malaysia	2010
Mali	2009

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Mauritius	2008
Mexico	2010
Morocco	2009
Namibia	2011
Netherlands	2009
Niger	2011
Pakistan	2011
Paraguay	2011
Peru	2009
Qatar	2009
Republic of Korea	2010
Spain	2011
Suriname	2008
Togo	2010
Turkey	2011
United Arab Emirates	2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2009
United Republic of Tanzania	2009
United States of America	2008
Zambia	2010